

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification has been amended to improve form and provide improved correlation with the drawings and claims. Claims 1, 32, and 34 have been amended, and claims 1-6, 32, and 34 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 1-6, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonomura (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0108338) in view of Foster et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,591). The applicants respectfully traverse.

Neither Nonomura nor Foster, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests all the limitations of claim 1. For example, neither Nonomura nor Foster disclose wherein the sub-audio system time clock counter continuously increases even if a user inputs a reverse play or forward play command. Nonomura discloses an apparatus having forward and reverse play options ("fast-forward" and "rewind", paragraph 242), but is silent as to any particular operation of the apparatus in response to these commands. Nonomura is silent as to whether the STC increases or decreases in response to a forward play or reverse play, and the applicants submit that Nonomura is merely indicative of the prior art techniques as shown in FIG. 6 of the instant application, in which the STC decreases in response to a reverse play command. Nonomura thus does not disclose wherein the sub-audio system time clock counter continuously increases even if a user inputs a reverse play or forward play command.

Foster is directed toward independent updating of a video STC register and an audio STC register (col. 7, lines 20-25). The video STC register and the audio STC register are, however, controlled by the same STC counter, STC\_NEW (FIG. 4). Since the two STC registers are controlled by the same STC counter, the STC registers cannot be seen as independent, contrary to the recitation in claim 1. Foster is also silent as to the behavior of the STC in response to a forward play and reverse play, and thus does not remedy the deficiencies in Nonomura identified above. Accordingly, the combination of Nonomura and Foster does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1. The rejection of claims 2-5 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 32 recites limitations similar to claim 1. The rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 34 recites limitations similar to claim 1. The rejection of claim 34 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

**CONCLUSION:**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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